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more, ever more ships. He now asks only that new up-to-date ships, as big as the biggest and as perfect as the best, may take the place of the old ones. That is something to be thankful for. If Congress continues to grow in opposition to further naval development as it has for the last two years, under the lead of Mr. Tawney, Mr. Burton, Senator Hale and others, there is reason to hope that the President will be ready, when the Hague Conference assembles, to agree to some actual reduction of the navy, if that should be seriously put forward as a part of the international program.

The President's proposition, in the closing paragraph of the message, to establish shooting galleries in all the large public schools, as well as the military schools, and rifle clubs throughout all parts of the land, to teach all the boys and young men of the country to "shoot straight," as a preparation for possible war, stands little chance of realization. It has already stirred up much opposition among educators, who know instinctively that such a thing would be one of the deadliest blows that could be dealt to our educational system as a means of training the youth to intelligence, moral force and efficiency in comprehending and fulfilling their duties as citizens in all the walks of ordinary peaceful life. So long as military schools exist, they will of course train men to shoot. But the establishment of shooting galleries to train all the hosts of boys in the public schools in the art of shooting at their fellow men would be so wicked and inexcusable a perversion of the educational system of the country that it cannot be thought of. The people ought to beware, they will beware, of this first fatal step toward the militarization and the consequent devitalization and degradation of the nation.

The Proposed National Peace Congress.

It is felt very generally that the success of the approaching Hague Conference, at least the success which ought to crown its labors, will depend very much on the manner in which public sentiment expresses itself, between now and the date of the meeting, on the subjects with which it ought especially to deal.

The first Hague Conference was probably saved from failure, at its very opening, by the immense volume of expression of public sentiment which came to it from many parts of the civilized world,—from Great Britain, the United States, France, Italy, Holland, Switzerland, etc. The second intergovernmental Peace Conference runs a risk of a different order, namely, that of becoming a mere appendage to the first. If it is to be saved from this, and deal in a large, free, progressive way with the important international problems now pressing for

solution, it must not be left in doubt, when it meets, as to what the peoples of the world want and expect of it.

For this reason it has been thought expedient by the Directors of the American Peace Society and many others, that a National Peace Congress should be held in New York the coming spring, to voice the sentiment of the country in regard to what should be done at The Hague. On their invitation, a preliminary conference to consider the subject was held at the City Club, New York, on December 10. Representatives were present from most of the important peace organizations, and in addition a number of other interested individuals. Among those in attendance were Hon. Robert Treat Paine and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin D. Mead of Boston, Joshua L. Bailey and Alfred H. Love of Philadelphia, Dr. Philip S. Moxom of Springfield, Rev. Mr. Potter and Mrs. Adler from Hartford, Professors George W. Kirchwey, Samuel T. Dutton, John B. Clark and Dr. Ernst Richard from Columbia University, Mr. Hayne Davis, Mr. Robert E. Ely, Mrs. Anna Garlin Spencer, Mr. Otto Spengler and Miss Pearson from New York, etc. Prominent persons who had been invited, but could not come, expressed themselves as heartily in favor of the proposed Congress, and wished the undertaking all possible success. Among these were President Jordan of Leland Stanford, President Seelye of Smith, William Christie Herron of Cincinnati, Hon. Samuel B. Capen of Boston, Jenkin Lloyd Jones of Chicago, President James of the Illinois State University, Ex-Senator Edmunds, John Mitchell of Indianapolis, Dr. Hiram W. Thomas of Chicago, Clinton Rogers Woodruff of Philadelphia, John B. Garrett, Rosemont, Pa., Bishop Lawrence of Boston, Moorfield Storey, Bishop Mallalieu of Auburndale, Mass., Dr. Francis E. Clark of Boston, *et al.*

Hon. Robert Treat Paine, president of the American Peace Society, was invited to serve as chairman of the meeting, and Prof. Samuel T. Dutton, Secretary of the New York Peace Society, as secretary. After an explanation by Dr. Benjamin F. Trueblood of the purposes of the meeting and the character of the congress proposed, followed by a free discussion, it was unanimously voted that such a congress should be held, to arouse and concentrate American public sentiment in support, substantially, of the propositions put forward by the Inter-parliamentary Union and other peace organizations as demanding foremost consideration at The Hague.

It was voted that an Executive Committee of fifteen, with full powers, be appointed, seven of whom should be from New York City, to make the arrangements for the Congress. The nucleus of the Committee was formed with power to complete its membership. The Executive Committee was authorized and instructed to create a General Advisory Committee of not less than one

hundred, to coöperate with the Executive Committee in promoting the success of the Congress.

The Executive Committee, as completed, is as follows : Prof. Samuel T. Dutton, Mr. Robert E. Ely, Prof. George W. Kirchwey, Mrs. Henry Villard, Dr. Ernst Richard, Mrs. Anna Garlin Spencer, Rev. Frederick Lynch, Professor Charles Sprague Smith and Mr. Hayne Davis, New York ; Jenkin Lloyd Jones, Chicago ; Mahlon N. Kline and Stanley R. Yarnall, Philadelphia ; Edwin D. Mead and Benjamin F. Trueblood, Boston ; William Christie Herron, Cincinnati ; Rabbi J. Leonard Levy, Pittsburg ; and H. C. Phillips, Mohonk Lake.

The Executive Committee will name committees on program, finance, publicity, local arrangements, etc., as may be found necessary.

It is expected that the Congress will meet some time in April, prior to the convening of the Hague Conference. Its sessions will be continued for two or three days, and it is planned to make it representative of all the arbitration and peace organizations and interests of the country. Representative men in both public and private life, in business, educational, religious and labor circles, who favor the arbitration of international disputes, the codification and improvement of international law, the limitation of armaments, the extension of the rights of neutrals, the extension of the reign of law and order to international affairs, the federation of the nations into a world-organization, etc., will take part in the discussions. It is expected also that a number of distinguished leaders in the peace cause in Europe, who will be in America at the time, will participate in the proceedings.

It is estimated that it will take at least \$5,000 to cover the various expenses of preparing and holding the Congress, if it is given such proportions and character as it ought to have. One-half this sum is pledged in advance. The committee will be grateful for subscriptions of whatever amount from all those who are interested to see the Congress made a great and influential gathering, through which American public sentiment will powerfully and impressively express itself in favor of the greatest possible advancement at the second Hague Conference of the movement for world-order and peace. Contributions from any of the readers of the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE* may be sent to the Secretary of the American Peace Society, Benjamin F. Trueblood, and will be put into the hands of the treasurer of the Congress when he is appointed.

It would be well if our friends in various parts of the country, who may not be able to go to New York, would consider at once the advisability of holding about the same time auxiliary meetings, to coöperate with the National Congress, and to arouse their own communities to give strong expression of their interest in the success

of the Conference at The Hague. Such local conferences, by adopting and sending resolutions to the President, or to the chairman of the American delegation to The Hague, would have immense weight. There ought to be thousands of them.

Special Appeal for Increase of Income.

The American Peace Society, in order to meet the largely increased demands made upon it, and to extend and render more efficient its work, according to the requirements of the time, urgently needs an immediate increase of income of at least five thousand dollars a year.

The Society's correspondence, its publication and distribution of pamphlets, books, reports of Congresses and Conferences, important speeches, statistics, etc., its field work through lectures, and its labors along other lines in coöperation with various similar organizations in this country and Europe, have grown to nearly four-fold what they were a decade ago. Important committees have recently been created and are now actively engaged in endeavoring to promote deeper interest in the cause among the churches of the country, the schools and colleges, among business men, in the labor organizations and through social gatherings. The opening for effective and almost unlimited service in all these ways is now much greater and more promising than ever before.

To accommodate adequately this enlarged work, the directors have recently rented an additional room at the Society's headquarters, 31 Beacon Street, Boston. They are proposing, if the means can be secured, to organize at once a Press Bureau, in order to keep the public constantly posted through the daily and weekly papers, on the rapid progress of the arbitration and peace movement throughout the world.

This will necessitate the immediate addition to the office force of a capable assistant secretary, who shall have charge of the Press Bureau and otherwise aid the secretary in the numerous lines of the Society's work.

It is imperative that these plans be at once put into effect. The international peace movement has recently grown to great proportions, and the American Peace Society must continue in the forefront as it always has been in the past. The Second Hague Conference is approaching, and a campaign of education and concentration of American public opinion must be carried on vigorously till the day of its assembling, in order that the United States delegates may go into the Conference knowing that they have practically the whole country supporting them in the important proposals which they are expected to make and support at The Hague.

To meet these pressing responsibilities and opportunities, the Society needs at once the increase of